

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3486

To protect the privacy of veterans, spouses of veterans, and other persons affected by the security breach at the Department of Veterans Affairs on May 3, 2006, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2006

Mr. REID (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. LEAHY, and Ms. STABENOW)) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To protect the privacy of veterans, spouses of veterans, and other persons affected by the security breach at the Department of Veterans Affairs on May 3, 2006, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans and Military  
5 Privacy Protection Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION PROGRAM FOR VET-**  
2 **ERANS, SPOUSES OF VETERANS, AND OTHERS**  
3 **AT RISK OF IDENTITY THEFT.**

4 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Federal Trade Com-  
5 mission shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Vet-  
6 erans Affairs, develop and implement a program to pro-  
7 vide financial counseling and support to any veteran,  
8 spouse, or other person described in subsection (e).

9 (b) ACCESS.—The program required by subsection  
10 (a) shall be accessible through a toll-free telephone num-  
11 ber (commonly referred to as an “800 number”) estab-  
12 lished and operated by the Federal Trade Commission for  
13 purposes of the program.

14 (c) ELEMENTS.—Under the program required by  
15 subsection (a), the Federal Trade Commission shall—

16 (1) provide to veterans, spouses, and other per-  
17 sons described in subsection (e) such financial and  
18 other counseling as the Commission considers appro-  
19 priate relating to identity theft and the theft of data  
20 as described in that subsection; and

21 (2) upon request of any veteran, spouse, or  
22 other person described in subsection (e), assist such  
23 individual in securing the placement of an extended  
24 fraud alert or credit security freeze under sections  
25 605A(b)(3) and 605C of the Fair Credit Reporting  
26 Act, as added by this Act, respectively.

1 (d) PERSONS NOT SUBJECT TO IDENTITY THEFT.—

2 (1) NOTICE TO FTC OF IDENTIFICATION OF  
3 VETERANS OR OTHERS NOT SUBJECT TO IDENTITY  
4 THEFT.—Upon conclusively identifying any veteran,  
5 spouse, or other person described in subsection (e)  
6 as not being at risk of identity theft as a result of  
7 the security breach at the Department of Veterans  
8 Affairs on May 3, 2006, the Secretary shall imme-  
9 diately notify the Federal Trade Commission of such  
10 identification.

11 (2) NOTICE TO VETERANS AND OTHERS.—The  
12 program required by subsection (a) shall include  
13 mechanisms to ensure that any veteran, spouse, or  
14 other person who seeks counseling and support  
15 under the program after receipt by the Commission  
16 of notice under paragraph (1) covering such veteran  
17 is informed that such veteran or person is no longer  
18 subject to identity theft as a result of the security  
19 breach at the Department of Veterans Affairs on  
20 May 3, 2006.

21 (e) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply with re-  
22 spect to—

23 (1) any veteran, as defined in section 101 of  
24 title 38, United States Code, who may be a victim

of identity theft as a result of the security breach at the Department of Veterans Affairs on May 3, 2006;

(2) any spouse (or former spouse) of such veteran who the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has conclusively identified as being at risk of identity theft as a result of that security breach; and

(3) any other person who the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has conclusively identified as being at risk of identity theft as a result of that security breach.

**SEC. 3. EXTENDED CONSUMER CREDIT FRAUD ALERTS AND SECURITY FREEZES FOR VETERANS AND OTHER PERSONS AFFECTED BY SECURITY BREACH.**

(a) AUTOMATIC FRAUD ALERTS.—Section 605A(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681c–1(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) AUTOMATIC EXTENDED FRAUD ALERTS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND OTHERS AFFECTED BY SECURITY BREACH.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the direct request of a veteran, spouse, or other person described in subparagraph (D), each consumer reporting agency described in section 603(p)(1) that maintains a file on that individual shall

1 take the actions specified in subparagraphs (A)  
2 through (C) of paragraph (1) with respect to  
3 that individual.

4 “(B) AUTOMATIC ALERTS.—Notwith-  
5 standing the requirements of paragraph (1), a  
6 veteran, spouse, or other person described in  
7 subparagraph (D) is not required to submit any  
8 identity theft report, proof of identity, or other  
9 documentation with respect to an extended  
10 fraud alert required by subparagraph (A).

11 “(C) VETERANS AND OTHERS NOT SUB-  
12 JECT TO IDENTITY THEFT.—Upon conclusively  
13 identifying any veteran, spouse, or other person  
14 described in subparagraph (D) as not being at  
15 risk of identity theft as a result of the security  
16 breach described in subparagraph (A)—

17 “(i) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
18 shall immediately notify each consumer re-  
19 porting agency and the veteran, spouse, or  
20 other person involved that such individual  
21 is no longer subject to identity theft as a  
22 result of the security breach described in  
23 subparagraph (A); and

24 “(ii) the requirements of subpara-  
25 graph (A) shall no longer apply with re-

1           spect to any such veteran, spouse, or other  
2           person, as of the date of such notification.

3           “(D) APPLICABILITY.—This paragraph  
4           shall apply to—

5                   “(i) any veteran, as defined in section  
6                   101 of title 38, United States Code, who  
7                   may be a victim of identity theft as a re-  
8                   sult of the security breach at the Depart-  
9                   ment of Veterans Affairs on May 3, 2006;

10                   “(ii) any spouse (or former spouse) of  
11                   such veteran who the Secretary of Vet-  
12                   erans Affairs has conclusively identified as  
13                   being at risk of identity theft as a result  
14                   of that security breach; and

15                   “(iii) any other person who the Sec-  
16                   retary of Veterans Affairs has conclusively  
17                   identified as being at risk of identity theft  
18                   as a result of that security breach.”.

19           (b) SECURITY FREEZES FOR VETERANS.—The Fair  
20           Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended  
21           by inserting after section 605B the following:

22           **“SEC. 605C. SECURITY FREEZES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.**

23                   “(a) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply with  
24           respect to—

1           “(1) any veteran, as defined in section 101 of  
 2           title 38, United States Code, who may be a victim  
 3           of identity theft as a result of the security breach at  
 4           the Department of Veterans Affairs on May 3, 2006;

5           “(2) any spouse (or former spouse) of such vet-  
 6           eran who the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has con-  
 7           clusively identified as being at risk of identity theft  
 8           as a result of that security breach; and

9           “(3) any other person who the Secretary of Vet-  
 10          erans Affairs has conclusively identified as being at  
 11          risk of identity theft as a result of that security  
 12          breach.

13          “(b) SECURITY FREEZES.—

14               “(1) EMPLACEMENT.—A veteran, spouse, or  
 15               other person described in subsection (a) may include  
 16               a security freeze in the file of that veteran, spouse,  
 17               or other person maintained by a consumer reporting  
 18               agency described in section 603(p)(1), by making a  
 19               request to the consumer reporting agency in writing,  
 20               by telephone, or through a secure electronic connec-  
 21               tion made available by the consumer reporting agen-  
 22               cy.

23               “(2) CONSUMER DISCLOSURE.—If a veteran,  
 24               spouse, or other person described in subsection (a)  
 25               requests a security freeze under this section, the

1 consumer reporting agency shall disclose to that in-  
2 dividual the process of placing and removing the se-  
3 curity freeze and explain to that individual the po-  
4 tential consequences of the security freeze. A con-  
5 sumer reporting agency may not imply or inform a  
6 veteran, spouse, or other person described in sub-  
7 section (a) that the placement or presence of a secu-  
8 rity freeze on the file of that individual may nega-  
9 tively affect their credit score.

10 “(c) EFFECT OF SECURITY FREEZE.—

11 “(1) RELEASE OF INFORMATION BLOCKED.—If  
12 a security freeze is in place in the file of a veteran,  
13 spouse, or other person described in subsection (a),  
14 a consumer reporting agency may not release infor-  
15 mation from the file of that individual for consumer  
16 credit purposes to a third party without prior ex-  
17 press written authorization from that individual.

18 “(2) INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THIRD PAR-  
19 TIES.—Paragraph (2) does not prevent a consumer  
20 reporting agency from advising a third party that a  
21 security freeze is in effect with respect to the file of  
22 a veteran, spouse, or other person described in sub-  
23 section (a). If a third party, in connection with an  
24 application for credit, requests access to a consumer  
25 file on which a security freeze is in place under this



1 section, the third party may treat the application as  
2 incomplete.

3 “(3) CREDIT SCORE NOT AFFECTED.—The  
4 placement of a security freeze under this section  
5 may not be taken into account for any purpose in  
6 determining the credit score of the veteran, spouse,  
7 or other person to whom the security freeze relates.

8 “(d) REMOVAL; TEMPORARY SUSPENSION.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
10 graph (4), a security freeze under this section shall  
11 remain in place until the veteran, spouse, or other  
12 person to whom it relates requests that the security  
13 freeze be removed. The veteran, spouse, or other  
14 person may remove a security freeze on his or her  
15 file by making a request to the consumer reporting  
16 agency in writing, by telephone, or through a secure  
17 electronic connection made available by the con-  
18 sumer reporting agency.

19 “(2) CONDITIONS.—A consumer reporting  
20 agency may remove a security freeze placed in the  
21 file of a veteran, spouse, or other person under this  
22 section only—

23 “(A) upon request of the veteran, spouse,  
24 or other person, pursuant to paragraph (1); or

1           “(B) if the agency determines that the file  
2           of that veteran, spouse, or other person was  
3           frozen due to a material misrepresentation of  
4           fact by that veteran, spouse, or other person.

5           “(3) NOTIFICATION TO CONSUMER.—If a con-  
6           sumer reporting agency intends to remove a security  
7           freeze pursuant to paragraph (2)(B), the consumer  
8           reporting agency shall notify the veteran, spouse, or  
9           other person to whom the security freeze relates in  
10          writing prior to removing the freeze.

11          “(4) TEMPORARY SUSPENSION.—A veteran,  
12          spouse, or other person described in subsection (a)  
13          may have a security freeze under this section tempo-  
14          rarily suspended by making a request to the con-  
15          sumer reporting agency in writing or by telephone  
16          and specifying beginning and ending dates for the  
17          period during which the security freeze is not to  
18          apply.

19          “(e) RESPONSE TIMES; NOTIFICATION OF OTHER  
20          ENTITIES.—

21          “(1) IN GENERAL.—A consumer reporting  
22          agency shall—

23                  “(A) place a security freeze in the file of  
24                  a veteran, spouse, or other person under sub-  
25                  section (b) not later than 5 business days after

1 receiving a request from the veteran, spouse, or  
2 other person under subsection (b)(1); and

3 “(B) remove or temporarily suspend a se-  
4 curity freeze not later than 3 business days  
5 after receiving a request for removal or tem-  
6 porary suspension from the veteran, spouse, or  
7 other person under subsection (d).

8 “(2) NOTIFICATION OF OTHER AGENCIES.—A  
9 consumer reporting agency shall notify all other con-  
10 sumer reporting agencies described in section  
11 603(p)(1) of a request under this section not later  
12 than 3 days after placing, removing, or temporarily  
13 suspending a security freeze in the file of the vet-  
14 eran, spouse, or other person under subsection (b),  
15 (d)(2)(A), or (d)(4).

16 “(3) IMPLEMENTATION BY OTHER AGENCIES.—  
17 A consumer reporting agency that is notified of a re-  
18 quest under paragraph (2) to place, remove, or tem-  
19 porarily suspend a security freeze in the file of a vet-  
20 eran, spouse, or other person shall—

21 “(A) request proper identification from the  
22 veteran, spouse, or other person, in accordance  
23 with subsection (g), not later than 3 business  
24 days after receiving the notification; and

1                   “(B) place, remove, or temporarily suspend  
2                   the security freeze on that credit report not  
3                   later than 3 business days after receiving prop-  
4                   er identification.

5           “(f) CONFIRMATION.—Except as provided in sub-  
6 section (c)(3), whenever a consumer reporting agency  
7 places, removes, or temporarily suspends a security freeze  
8 at the request of a veteran, spouse, or other person under  
9 subsection (b) or (d), respectively, it shall send a written  
10 confirmation thereof to the veteran, spouse, or other per-  
11 son not later than 10 business days after placing, remov-  
12 ing, or temporarily suspending the security freeze. This  
13 subsection does not apply to the placement, removal, or  
14 temporary suspension of a security freeze by a consumer  
15 reporting agency because of a notification received under  
16 subsection (e)(2).

17           “(g) ID REQUIRED.—A consumer reporting agency  
18 may not place, remove, or temporarily suspend a security  
19 freeze in the file of a veteran, spouse, or other person de-  
20 scribed in subsection (a) at the request of the veteran,  
21 spouse, or other person, unless the veteran, spouse, or  
22 other person provides proper identification (within the  
23 meaning of section 610(a)(1)) and the regulations there-  
24 under.

1       “(h) EXCEPTIONS.—This section does not apply to  
2 the use of the file of a veteran, spouse, or other person  
3 described in subsection (a) maintained by a consumer re-  
4 porting agency by any of the following:

5           “(1) A person or entity, or a subsidiary, affil-  
6 iate, or agent of that person or entity, or an as-  
7 signee of a financial obligation owing by the veteran,  
8 spouse, or other person to that person or entity, or  
9 a prospective assignee of a financial obligation owing  
10 by the veteran, spouse, or other person to that per-  
11 son or entity in conjunction with the proposed pur-  
12 chase of the financial obligation, with which the vet-  
13 eran, spouse, or other person has or had prior to as-  
14 signment an account or contract, including a de-  
15 mand deposit account, or to whom the veteran,  
16 spouse, or other person issued a negotiable instru-  
17 ment, for the purposes of reviewing the account or  
18 collecting the financial obligation owing for the ac-  
19 count, contract, or negotiable instrument.

20           “(2) Any Federal, State, or local agency, law  
21 enforcement agency, trial court, or private collection  
22 agency acting pursuant to a court order, warrant,  
23 subpoena, or other compulsory process.

24           “(3) A child support agency or its agents or as-  
25 signs acting pursuant to subtitle D of title IV of the

1 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. et seq.) or similar  
2 State law.

3 “(4) The Department of Health and Human  
4 Services, a similar State agency, or the agents or as-  
5 signs of the Federal or State agency acting to inves-  
6 tigate medicare or medicaid fraud.

7 “(5) The Internal Revenue Service or a State  
8 or municipal taxing authority, or a State department  
9 of motor vehicles, or any of the agents or assigns of  
10 these Federal, State, or municipal agencies acting to  
11 investigate or collect delinquent taxes or unpaid  
12 court orders or to fulfill any of their other statutory  
13 responsibilities.

14 “(6) The use of consumer credit information for  
15 the purposes of prescreening, as provided for under  
16 this title.

17 “(7) Any person or entity administering a cred-  
18 it file monitoring subscription to which the veteran,  
19 spouse, or other person has subscribed.

20 “(8) Any person or entity for the purpose of  
21 providing a veteran, spouse, or other person with a  
22 copy of his or her credit report or credit score upon  
23 request of the veteran, spouse, or other person.

24 “(i) FEES.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
2           graph (2), a consumer reporting agency may charge  
3           a reasonable fee, for placing, removing, or tempo-  
4           rarily suspending a security freeze in the file of the  
5           veteran, spouse, or other person described in sub-  
6           section (a), which cost shall be submitted to and  
7           paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs, pursu-  
8           ant to procedures established by the Secretary of  
9           Veterans Affairs.

10           “(2) ID THEFT VICTIMS.—A consumer report-  
11           ing agency may not charge a fee for placing, remov-  
12           ing, or temporarily suspending a security freeze in  
13           the file of a veteran, spouse, or other person de-  
14           scribed in subsection (a), if—

15                   “(A) the veteran, spouse, or other person  
16                   is a victim of identity theft;

17                   “(B) the veteran, spouse, or other person  
18                   requests the security freeze in writing;

19                   “(C) the veteran, spouse, or other person  
20                   has filed a police report with respect to the  
21                   theft, or an identity theft report (as defined in  
22                   section 603(q)(4), within 90 days after the date  
23                   on which the theft occurred or was discovered  
24                   by the veteran, spouse, or other person; and

1           “(D) the veteran, spouse, or other person  
2           provides a copy of the report to the reporting  
3           agency.

4           “(j) LIMITATION ON INFORMATION CHANGES IN  
5 FROZEN REPORTS.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a security freeze is in  
7           place in the file of a veteran, spouse, or other person  
8           described in subsection (a), the consumer reporting  
9           agency may not change any of the following official  
10          information in that file without sending a written  
11          confirmation of the change to the veteran, spouse, or  
12          other person within 30 days after the date on which  
13          the change is made:

14               “(A) Name.

15               “(B) Date of birth.

16               “(C) Social Security number.

17               “(D) Address.

18           “(2) CONFIRMATION.—Paragraph (1) does not  
19          require written confirmation for technical modifica-  
20          tions of the official information of a veteran, spouse,  
21          or other person, including name and street abbrevia-  
22          tions, complete spellings, or transposition of num-  
23          bers or letters. In the case of an address change, the  
24          written confirmation shall be sent to both the new



1 address and to the former address of the veteran,  
2 spouse, or other person.

3 “(k) CERTAIN ENTITY EXEMPTIONS.—

4 “(1) AGGREGATORS AND OTHER AGENCIES.—

5 The provisions of this section do not apply to a con-  
6 sumer reporting agency that acts only as a reseller  
7 of credit information by assembling and merging in-  
8 formation contained in the data base of another con-  
9 sumer reporting agency or multiple consumer report-  
10 ing agencies, and does not maintain a permanent  
11 data base of credit information from which new con-  
12 sumer credit reports are produced.

13 “(2) OTHER EXEMPTED ENTITIES.—The fol-  
14 lowing entities are not required to place a security  
15 freeze in the file of a veteran, spouse, or other per-  
16 son described in subsection (a) in accordance with  
17 this section:

18 “(A) A check services or fraud prevention  
19 services company, which issues reports on inci-  
20 dents of fraud or authorizations for the purpose  
21 of approving or processing negotiable instru-  
22 ments, electronic fund transfers, or similar  
23 methods of payments.

24 “(B) A deposit account information service  
25 company, which issues reports regarding ac-

count closures due to fraud, substantial overdrafts, ATM abuse, or similar negative information regarding such veteran, spouse, or other person, to inquiring banks or other financial institutions for use only in reviewing the request of such veteran, spouse, or other person for a deposit account at the inquiring bank or financial institution.”.

(c) FEES.—Any fee associated with an extended fraud alert or security freeze required by the amendments made by this section that would otherwise be required to be paid by the consumer shall be paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**SEC. 4. PENALTIES FOR IDENTITY THEFT OF VETERANS  
AND OTHERS RELATED TO SECURITY  
BREACH.**

Section 1028 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “The punishment for” and inserting the following “Except as provided in subsection (j), the punishment for”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) IDENTITY THEFT DUE TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SECURITY BREACH.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In determining the punish-  
 2           ment applicable under subsection (b), if the offense  
 3           is an offense described in paragraph (2), the fine  
 4           and term of imprisonment otherwise applicable  
 5           under subsection (b) shall be doubled.

6           “(2) TYPE OF OFFENSE.—An offense described  
 7           in this paragraph is an offense under subsection (a)  
 8           that—

9                   “(A) involves any document or other infor-  
 10           mation—

11                       “(i) relating to a veteran (as defined  
 12                       in section 101 of title 38), a spouse of a  
 13                       veteran, or other person; and

14                       “(ii) obtained as a direct or indirect  
 15                       result of the security breach at the Depart-  
 16                       ment of Veterans Affairs on May 3, 2006;  
 17                       and

18                       “(B) was committed after the date of en-  
 19           actment of this subsection.”.

20   **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

21           (a) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans  
 22   Affairs shall reimburse the Federal Trade Commission for  
 23   any costs incurred by the Commission in carrying out this  
 24   Act and the amendments made by this Act.

1 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-  
 2 priated to the Secretary and available for obligation may  
 3 be utilized for purposes of reimbursement of the Federal  
 4 Trade Commission under subsection (a).

5 **SEC. 6. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDIES ON DATA PRO-**  
 6 **TECTION AND OTHER MATTERS.**

7 (a) STUDY ON DATA PROTECTION BY DEPARTMENT  
 8 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of  
 10 the United States shall conduct a study of the data  
 11 protection procedures of the Department of Veterans  
 12 Affairs.

13 (2) ELEMENTS.—The study required by para-  
 14 graph (1) shall include the following:

15 (A) A review and assessment of the data  
 16 protection procedures of the Department of  
 17 Veterans Affairs in effect before May 3, 2006.

18 (B) A review and assessment of any modi-  
 19 fications of the data protection procedures of  
 20 the Department of Veterans Affairs adopted as  
 21 a result of the loss of data resulting from the  
 22 security breach at the Department on May 3,  
 23 2006.

24 (b) STUDY ON SECURITY BREACH INVESTIGATION BY  
 25 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of  
2           the United States shall conduct a review and assess-  
3           ment of the investigation carried out by the Depart-  
4           ment of Veterans Affairs with respect to the security  
5           breach at the Department on May 3, 2006.

6           (2) COOPERATION.—The Secretary of Veterans  
7           Affairs shall ensure that the personnel of the De-  
8           partment of Veterans Affairs cooperate fully with  
9           the Comptroller General in the conduct of the review  
10          and assessment required by paragraph (1).

11          (c) STUDY ON FTC PROGRAM FOR VETERANS AND  
12          OTHERS AT RISK OF IDENTITY THEFT.—The Comptroller  
13          General of the United States shall conduct a study of the  
14          program of the Federal Trade Commission for veterans,  
15          spouses of veterans, and other persons at risk of identity  
16          theft required by section 2. The study shall include an as-  
17          sessment of the effectiveness of the program in meeting  
18          the financial counseling and similar needs of individuals  
19          seeking counseling and support through the program.

20          (d) STUDY ON COMPLIANCE OF FEDERAL AGENCIES  
21          WITH REQUIREMENTS ON PERSONAL DATA.—

22               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of  
23               the United States shall conduct a study of the com-  
24               pliance of the departments and agencies of the Fed-  
25               eral Government with applicable requirements relat-

1 ing to the preservation of the confidentiality of per-  
2 sonal data.

3 (2) ELEMENTS.—The study required by para-  
4 graph (1) shall include the following:

5 (A) A review and assessment of the cur-  
6 rent procedures and practices of the depart-  
7 ments and agencies of the Federal Government  
8 regarding the preservation of the confidentiality  
9 of personal data.

10 (B) A comparative analysis of the proce-  
11 dures practices referred to in subparagraph (A)  
12 with current standards of the Federal Trade  
13 Commission for the preservation of the con-  
14 fidentiality of personal data by commercial and  
15 non-commercial private entities.

16 (C) A review and assessment of the modi-  
17 fications of the data protection procedures  
18 adopted by the Department of Veterans Affairs  
19 as a result of the loss of data resulting from the  
20 security breach on May 3, 2006, including an  
21 assessment of the feasibility and advisability of  
22 the adoption of any such modifications by other  
23 departments and agencies of the Federal Gov-  
24 ernment.

1                   (D) An identification of recommendations  
2                   for improvements to the procedures and prac-  
3                   tices of the departments and agencies of the  
4                   Federal Government regarding the preservation  
5                   of the confidentiality of personal data.

6           (e) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the  
7   date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
8   of the United States shall submit to Congress a report  
9   setting forth the results of each study conducted under  
10 this section. The report shall set forth the results of each  
11 study separately, and shall include such recommendations  
12 for legislative and administrative action as the Comp-  
13 troller General considers appropriate in light of the stud-  
14 ies.

15 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16           There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
17 retary of Veterans Affairs, such sums as may be necessary  
18 to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this  
19 Act.

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